Prof. Diana R. Gordon
Political Science/Criminology
City College of New York
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7627 Old Receiver Road
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11/8/89

Dear Ms. Gordon,

Based on the FBI records I've obtained under FOIA I think you may be a bit optimistic in your excellent The Nation article in saying that the FBI can not so easily used presidents, the Congress and prominent journalists because of Watergate, Cointelpro revelations and FOIA. They may not try with some as often but they do pretty much the same things in pretty much the same ways. You also mentioned attorneys general and the same goes for them.

There is a simply enormous amount of information about the FBI that is available that most writers do not even know about. Of those whose books you mention only Theoharis sought any records from me and his interests were limited.

Most FOIA users have been content to make requests and settle for whatever the FBI decided to let them have. I had to sue for everything. They even told me to make a FOIA request for a copy of a press release already published in full in the New York Times. Once FOIA was amended - and the investigatory files exemption was amended over one of my earliest suits against the FBI - I did litigate extensively and in direct confrontation with it on its claims, testimony, and unsworn allegations. I chose to state most of what I stated under oath rather than through lawyer's arguments, making myself subject to perjury charges if I erred. There are lengthy and thoroughly documented affidavits none of which was ever refuted. For the most part they lacked even pro forma denial. While there may not have been any obligation on the part of the FBI or its servile Department counsel to confront what I alleged, they did have the opportunity if not the need (the need usually avoided by the judges they knew they could depend upon), the fact is that they failed to refute what I alleged. Involved were hundreds of thousands of pages involved in two of the most significant cases, the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King. I can't begin to estimate the numbers of sworn pages I filed but it is well into the thousands, with innumerable exhibits largely FBI documents. I mention these things in the event you in your own researches, other researchers or students, ever have any interest in these matters. Of course what I have includes all the FBI's filings and quite a few but far from all transcripts of status calls and hearings.

I regard those who obtain records under FOIA as surrogate for the people and I make them all available to anyone. I am now 76 and in impaired health. Eventually, all my materials will be a public archive at local Hood College.

Most media interests seem to be by conspiracy theorists or those reporting on them. My own work is not of that nature. It is a rather large study of how our basic institutions worked in those times of great stress and since then. This is not to say that I do not believe those crimes to have been the end product of conspiracies. I just do not conjecture who did them. I believe both were conspiracies but that conclusion comes from my study of the evidence, not any theory.

Eventually the person to consult at Hood will be Dr. Gerald McKnight or the librarian, Charles ~~Kuhn~~ Kuhn. Hood students have already done some fine papers based on these records and the content permits countless additional studies, particularly in political science and criminology. I'm surprised that defense counsel have not found uses for some of them.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg